GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:848
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
BAN ON USE OF GUTKA AND TOBACCO
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from various State Governments to put a complete ban on the use of gutka and tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the status of such proposals; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir The Central Government had received the request from the Govt. of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh in the year 2004 to ban manufacture and sale of Gutka in their State. The request were examined by the Govt. and a provision has been made under PFA Rules 1955 vide G.S.R. No. 491 (E) dated 21-8-06 (effective from 20-8-2007) which provide that tobacco and nicotine shall not be used as ingredients in any food products. However, the said rule has been challenged in a number of High Courts in many States viz Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra and stay on its implementation has been given by these High Courts. The matter has subsequently been transferred to the Hon'ble Supreme Court and therefore the matter is sub-judice.